GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3383
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Research in Antarctica
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research areas being focussed on at India's base in Antarctica;

(b) the number of scientists and other people working at Indian base in Antarctica;

(c) the financial outlay for the base; and

(d) whether any breakthrough scientific research has been achieved at Indian base in the Antarctica and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Research areas of current focus at India's base in Antarctica include Climate Change through proxies in the ice cores, sediments and biological materials; Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences; Earth science and Geology, Biology and Environmental Sciences, etc.
(b) About 100 to 120 members including Scientists, Engineers, Doctors and Tradesmen are deputed, in batches, every year in Indian expedition to Antarctica between November and January. During the austral winter season (March − November) 25 personnel are stationed at Maitri and 23 at Bharati station.
(c) There is no separate financial outlay for the research bases, however stations are maintained within the total outlay for the Indian Antarctic programme of the Ministry. Annual financial outlay for the Antarctic programme is about 120 crores.
(d) Indian scientists have made significant contributions in Antarctic research. The details are furnished in Annexure-I.